Basot. As per recommendations of District Magistrate. Almora;

(b) whether Government have turned down the proposal;

(c) if so, on what grounds and at what level;

(d) whether Government are aware that the issue has been raised at the Ministerial levels;

(e) If so, whether he was taken into confidence, before suggesting to district authorities not to undertake the fresh survey; and

(f) if not, the action taken against the persons responsible for misguiding the district authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) A suitable site has already been selected in consultation with the District authorities for installation of a VLPT at Basot to provide maximum coverage to Basot. Bhikiasen and nearby villages. Payment towards the cost of the identified site has also been made to the District authorities but the site is still to be handed over the Doordarshan. No fresh survey is, therefore, contemplated.

(d) Question have been asked in the Parliament on the matter but no Minister of the Union or the concerned State Government has raised this matter.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

News-item Regarding Frauls Involving Industrial Houses

*376. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindu, dated 9th November, 1996 with the heading "It Unearths Major Frauds Involving Industrial Houses"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cases of irregularities relating to sale and lease back agreement by Industrial Houses have been detected by the Income-tax Department. The assets in respect of which this kind of arrangement was made, were either over-invoiced or non-existent. In most of the cases, claim of 100% depreciation and lease-rentals were made, which, after concerted enquiries and investigations, were found to be falsely claimed as the assets did not exist or were of much lesser value. The Officers of the Income Tax Department dealing with cases of industrial houses, including those who owned the alleged assets, are taking appropriate remedial action in accordance with law.

All Party Meeting to Discuss the recommendations of Sengupta Committee Report

*377. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAIPATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had called an all party meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Sengupta Committee Report recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act have been suggested in the meeting; and

(d) if so, by when the amending bill is proposed to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 13th September, 1996 to solicit views of various political parties on